

## REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 15, 2004. Claims 1-16 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 6, and 11, which are in independent form, have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-14, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,704,029 (*Wright, Jr.*), in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,640,577 (*Scharmer*), and Claims 5, 10, and 15 were rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Wright, Jr.* in view of *Scharmer* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,451,900 (*Mayer et al.*).

As shown above, Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 6, and 11 in terms that more clearly define what he regards as his invention. Applicant submits that these amended independent claims, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is a form editing method of editing composite form template data to be synthesized with field data, the composite form template data being obtained as a combination of component form template data. A component form template data generation step generates component form template data including a plurality of field attribute data, each field attribute data defining an attribute of the field data. A page of the composite form template data comprises a plurality of component form template data. A form data storing step stores composite form template data in a form data storage means. The composite form template data contains a plurality of the component form template data generated in the component form template data generation step in a predetermined

order in one page. A field list display step displays each field attribute data of a plurality of component form template data, which is contained in a page of interest of the composite form template data stored in the form data storage means, with each serial number as a list. The component form template data defines a field order of the plurality of field attribute data contained in the component form template data, and the field list display step further comprises the steps of: (a) loading, as component form template data of interest, one of the component form template data contained in the composite form template data of one page in the predetermined order; (b) incrementing the serial number in accordance with the field order of the field attribute data contained in the component form template data of interest loaded in step (a); and (c) displaying the field attribute data contained in the component form template data of interest and the serial number incremented in step (b).

Among other notable features of Claim 1 are that the component form template data defines a field order of the plurality of field attribute data contained in the component form template data, and the field list display step comprises: (a) loading, as component form template data of interest, one of the component form template data contained in the composite form template data of one page in the predetermined order, (b) incrementing the serial number in accordance with the field order of the field attribute data contained in the component form template data of interest loaded in step (a), and (c) displaying the field attribute data contained in the component form template data of interest and the serial number incremented in step (b).

That is, the component form template data includes a plurality of field attribute data, where each field of attribute data defines an attribute of the field data. The component form template data defines a field order of the plurality of field attribute data contained in the

component form template data, as shown in Figure 3.<sup>1</sup> Thus, the field attribute data contained in the component form template data can be displayed in the field order, with the serial number.

*Wright, Jr.* relates to systems for electronically creating and completing business forms. *Wright, Jr.* discusses a technique for outputting a form from a personal computer to a personal digital assistant (PDA), entering data into the form using the PDA, and outputting the form with data from the PDA to the personal computer.

The Office Action concedes that *Wright, Jr.* fails to teach the loading feature of the field list display step. Applicant concurs.

Applicant has also found nothing in *Wright, Jr.* that would teach or suggest the component form template data defining a field order of the plurality of field attribute data contained in the component form template data, and the field list display step comprising: (b) incrementing the serial number in accordance with the field order of the field attribute data contained in the component form template data of interest loaded in step (a), and (c) displaying the field attribute data contained in the component form template data of interest and the serial number incremented in step (b).

For at least the above reasons, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is clearly patentable over *Wright, Jr.*, taken alone.

The Office Action cites *Scharmer* as overcoming the deficiencies of *Ohanian*, and in particular as disclosing loading, as component form data of interest, one of the component form data contained in the composite form data of one page in a predetermined order. *Scharmer*, as discussed previously, relates to a data processing system including automated form generation

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<sup>1</sup>/It is to be understood, of course, that the claim scope is not limited by the details of the described embodiments, which are referred to only to facilitate explanation.

which uses data displayed at a predetermined position on a data terminal display screen and a data processing function selector to automatically retrieve a pre-established form stored in a data processing system. The form includes a number of uncompleted fields. The data processing system retrieves at least one datum from at least one data field displayed on the screen, and automatically inserts the data in a predetermined uncompleted field of the form. The partially or fully completed form is then stored for later retrieval, updating and printing by the data processing system.

*Scharmer* discusses a technique for inserting data 1 to data n into a form. However, *Scharmer* merely discusses a technique for generating a partially completed form or document by executing a plurality of processing. That is, according to Figure 2, of *Scharmer*, a form 60 is filed with data (DATA1) 56 from a first application program (AP1) 52 to generate a partially completed form 62. Then the partially completed form 62 is filed with data (DATA2) 72 from another application program (AP2) 70 and with additional data (DATAn) from application program (APn) to generate a fully completed form. That is, according to *Scharmer*, a fully completed form is generated by filing in one form (form template) with data from different application programs. However, nothing has been found in *Scharmer* that would teach or suggest component form template data defining a field order of the plurality of field attribute data contained in the component form template data, and the field list display step comprising: (a) loading, as component form template data of interest, one of the component form template data contained in the composite form template data of one page in the predetermined order, (b) incrementing the serial number in accordance with the field order of the field attribute data contained in the component form template data of interest loaded in step (a), and (c) displaying

the field attribute data contained in the component form template data of interest and the serial number incremented in step (b), as recited in Claim 1.

Therefore, even if *Wright, Jr.* and *Scharmer* were to be combined in the manner proposed in the Office Action, assuming such combination would even be permissible, the resulting combination also would fail to teach or suggest at least those features of Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is patentable over *Wright, Jr.* and *Scharmer*, whether considered separately or in combination, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

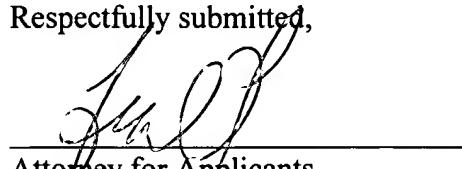
Independent Claims 6 and 11 are apparatus and computer program product claims respectively corresponding to method Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable over those references for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attorney for Applicants  
Frank A. DeLucia  
Registration No.: 42,476

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, New York 10112-3801  
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200